



The Washington Child Restraint Law RCW 46.61.687 Covers All Passengers Under 16 Years Of Age

The driver of the vehicle is responsible for making sure children under age 16 are properly restrained in the vehicle.

A CHILD RESTRAINT INFRACTION COSTS \$124.00

Washington's Child Passenger Restraint Law (RCW 46.61.687):

A child must be restrained in a child restraint system if the passenger seating portion equipped with a safety belt system allows sufficient space for installation, until the child is 8 years old, unless the child is 4 feet 9 inches or taller. The child restraint system must comply with standards of the U.S. Department of Transportation, and must be secured in the vehicle in accordance with the instructions of the vehicle manufacturer and child restraint manufacturer.

A child who is 8 years of age or older, or 4 feet 9 inches tall or taller, shall be properly restrained with the motor vehicle safety belt properly adjusted and fastened around the child's body or an appropriately fitted child restraint system.

The driver of a vehicle transporting a child who is under 13 years old shall transport the child in the back seat positions where it is practical to do so.

DOES NOT APPLY TO: (a) "for hire vehicles", (b) vehicles designed to transport 16 or less passengers (including the driver) operated by transportation companies as defined in RCW 81.68, (c) vehicles providing shuttle service between parking, convention, and hotel facilities and airport terminals, and (d) school buses.

Required to use a booster seat does not apply to any seat position where there is only a lap belt available and the child weighs more than 40 pounds.

How To Apply Washington's Child Restraint Law:

Age: 0 to at least 12 months AND at least 20-22 pounds: Use a rear-facing car seat. For additional protection, keep child rear-facing as long as your car seat allows, preferably up to age 2 years. NEVER place a rear-facing seat in front of an active air bag in the front seat. Infants need to be properly reclined for proper airway flow.

Age: 1 year to about 4 years: Use a child car seat with a five-point harness. Keep them in a forward-facing car seat until they have outgrown the weight or height of the seat's harness system. (Usually around 40 pounds; some seats allow a higher weight limit.

Age: 4 to 4'9" tall: Use a booster seat. Boosters must be used with a lap and shoulder belt. If your vehicle offers neck/head support, then a no-back booster is sufficient, if not, then use a high-back booster.

Age: Up to 13 years: Children must ride in the rear seat of the vehicle whenever possible.

REMEMBER: "UNTIL 4'9" BOOST 'EM EVERY TIME!"